TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

SIERRA LEONE

Republic of Sierra Leone

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Sierra Leone

Capital: Freetown

Population: 5,296,651 (est)

**Type of government: Constitutional Dem
engaged in a civil war.**

Head of government: Pres Ahmad Tejan

Official language(s) English, Mende, Te

Economy: Agriculture and mineral based

Religions: Islam (60%), Indigenous (30%), Christian (10%)

TRAVEL

INFORMATION

Travel restrictions: None.

International Airport: Freetown

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: at the corner of Walpole and Siaka Stevens Streets, Freetown Tel: 232-22-226-481 FAX: 232-22-

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. Most roads in Freetown are paved, but they have potholes; unpaved side streets are generally navigable. Most roads outside Freetown are unpaved, but they are passable for a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Public transportation (bus or group taxi) is erratic,

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Military personnel on leave require passports and visas. Military personnel on leave do not require clearance or advance notice, but do require identification credentials. Passports are required for all travelers, including aircrew members. For official travel, no-fee passports are required.

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.

Duty-free entry for personal effects: jewelry, two cameras (one still and one movie), used portable typewriter, cigarette lighter, electric razor, other articles justifiable for personal and household use for reasonable period, cigars or cigarettes or tobacco (not exceeding eight ounces combined), and one

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens against travel to Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is a developing country that has few facilities for tourism and poses considerable risks for travelers. Dual nationals who are bearers of Sierra Leone passports are required to present proof of payment of taxes before being granted departure clearance from the country. US consular assistance to persons of dual nationality may be extremely limited. Permission is required to photograph government buildings, airports, bridges or official-looking buildings. Areas forbidding photography are not marked and not well defined. Permit is required for firearms. Rogue military and rebels who have not been disarmed and demobilized, as well as common bandits, are at large throughout much of the country outside the western peninsula, where Freetown is located. Freetown has a curfew from 9:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M., which is strictly enforced.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Declare currency on entry and departure. There is no import or export limit on currency. Declare foreign currency on an exchange control form which must be certified and stamped at the port of entry .

Rate: Approximate: 194 leones for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, and heat injuries

Availability of medical services: Poor. Travelers with medical conditions that may require treatment or medications are discouraged from traveling to Sierra Leone. Medicines are in short supply, sterility of equipment is questionable, and

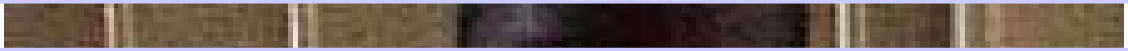
Medical Insurance: May not apply in Sierra Leone. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be

Status of hospitals: Poor

Health Precautions: Sierra Leone is considered a cholera-infected country.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid, influenza, yellow fever, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION



Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Sierra Leone. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Localized changes in the security situation in specific areas can lead, without warning, to imposition of a curfew. Boil water and use canned or dried milk. Wash fruits and vegetables with potassium permanganate and peel before cooking or eating. Eat only at recommended places. Antimalarial precautions are necessary. While peacekeeping forces control Freetown and major cities in the southern areas of the country, areas outside the cities remain subject to attacks by deposed military and rebel forces. Travel outside Freetown is extremely hazardous. Rebels and rogue military have taken international workers hostage. Many Sierra Leoneans do not speak English, so it can be difficult for a foreigner to communicate his or her identity. Travelers may

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Petty crime and theft of wallets and passports are common. Requests for payments at military roadblocks are common. Robberies and burglaries of residences are frequent. The loss or theft of a U.S. passport abroad should be reported immediately to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Sierra Leone is strict on: Firearms.

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Tropical-weight clothing is recommended.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

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